

AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising increasing resistance of passage through a urethra comprising administering an endoprosthesis a prosthetic device, which includes said prosthetic device comprising a hydrogel, for urethral bulking in a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, of a said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the polymer is prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 15% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80; or 85, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 80% by weight pyrogen-free water or aqueous saline solution.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, or 80, or 85, wherein the administering comprises injecting the hydrogel.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the injecting of the hydrogel comprises injections which include injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the urethra.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, further comprising the inclusion of cells.

18-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 10% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

30. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 7.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 3.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.6% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

35. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells comprise stem cells.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the urethra.

39-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the polymer is substantially comprised of cross-linked polyacrylamide.

53. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the polymer consists essentially of a polyacrylamide crosslinked with methylene bis-acrylamide.

54-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 75% by weight pyrogen-free water or aqueous saline solution.

63-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has an elasticity modulus of about 5 to 150 Pa.

68. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel has an elasticity modulus of about 10 to 100 Pa.

69. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the elasticity modulus and the complex viscosity are related by a factor of 5.8 to 6.4.

70.-77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising ~~administering an endoprosthesis, which includes a hydrogel, to increase resistance in a conduit for the treatment of urinary incontinence in a mammal injecting a hydrogel into a urethra~~, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, ~~of a~~ said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

79. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising ~~directly injecting a hydrogel into a conduit to increase the resistance in the conduit for the treatment of urinary incontinence, wherein the injecting a urethral bulking agent, wherein said bulking agent comprises a hydrogel comprising i) pyrogen-free water or aqueous saline solution and ii) about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, wherein said hydrogel has having~~ fewer than 50 ppm monomer units, ~~and having~~ a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa, and wherein the polymer is prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide.

80. (Currently amended) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising bulking the urethra by administering an endoprosthesis, which includes a prosthetic device, said prosthetic device comprising a hydrogel, as a bulking agent for the treatment of urinary incontinence in a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, ~~of a~~ said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 85% by weight pyrogen-free water or aqueous saline solution.

83. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 90% by weight pyrogen-free water or aqueous saline solution.

84. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, [[or]] 80, or 85, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 95% by weight pyrogen-free water or aqueous saline solution.

85. (New) A method of treating urinary incontinence comprising providing adequate resistance in a urethra by bulking the urethra comprising administering an prosthetic device, said prosthetic device comprising a hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight of a polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, said polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and methylene bis-acrylamide; wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas and has an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 200 Pa.

86. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel is homogenized.

87. (New) The method according to claim 62, wherein said polymer is polyacrylamide.

88. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 3 to 15 Pas and wherein the elasticity modulus and the complex viscosity are related by a factor of 5.8 to 6.4.

89. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel includes less than 10 ppm monomeric units.

90. (New) The method according to claim 9, 78, 79, 80, or 85 wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.5% and less than 10% by weight polyacrylamide; at least 90% by weight pyrogen-free water or saline solution, based on the total weight of the hydrogel; less than 10 ppm monomeric units; a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas; and an elasticity modulus of about 1 to 100 Pa.